

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending and subject to a restriction requirement. The Office requires applicants to restrict the claimed subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of three groups of inventions, characterized as Groups I, II, and III. The claims of each group, and the subject matter said to be associated with each group, are set forth below.

Group	Claims	Subject Matter
I	1-7	toluate based ester
II	8-20	method of making certain toluate based esters of Group I
III	21-25	foundry moulding including toluate based esters

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction because a search and examination of the entirety of the claimed subject matter can be conducted without a serious burden. The purpose of 35 U.S.C. § 121 is to avoid the necessity of conducting separate and diverse searches of claims directed to independent or distinct subject matter. In this regard, Applicants assert that the pending claims are closely related such as to allow a search of all claims without an undue burden. Group I relates to certain toluate based esters while Group II concerns a method of making certain of the Group I esters. Group III concerns foundry moulding compositions containing toluate based esters. If the composition claims are novel and non-obvious, a foundry moulding including toluate based esters should also be novel and non-obvious. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In order to comply with the requirement, however, Applicants elect Group I which includes claims 1-7. Applicants note that Group I concerns a product (toluate based esters) while Group II concerns methods of making the product of Group I. At least as to these groups, if the restriction is required, Applicants believe that rejoinder of method claims containing the limitations of the allowable product claim would be appropriate upon an indication that the Group I claims are directed to allowable subject matter.

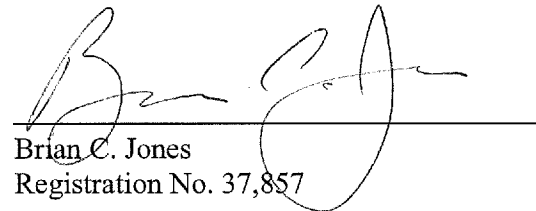
DOCKET NO.: 2003/01
Application No.: 10/557,103
Office Action Dated: July 28, 2008

PATENT

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections and an allowance of all of pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 28, 2008



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